I. RURAL

Apart from the general conditions the following guidelines have to be followed in respect of rural STD PCO operation. The rural STD PCO is defined for this purpose as one working in an exchange system which has a total capacity of 512 lines and less:

1. A minimum guaranteed revenue per PCO per month in the case of rural STD PCOs is fixed as R. 100.

2. A security deposit of Rs. 600 based on six months guarantee revenue or monthly average whichever is higher has to be deposited by the allottee of the STD rural PCO. This average revenue is calculated on the basis of the revenue of the previous six months.

3. Weekly billing cycle would be followed for recovery of STD PCO charges.

III. NON-RURAL (URBAN)

Apart from the general conditions mentioned above, the guidelines detailed below have to be followed in respect of the STD PCOs scheme in Non-rural (Urban) areas:

1. Atleast one STD PCO may be made available for about every 100 dwelling/ Business Premises.

2. *STD PCO Location*

While selecting the location for allotment of PCO, the SSA Head will consult the local bodies like Municipality, Public Institutions etc. to allocate convenient places for the PCO Booths. The important places given below should invariably be covered while selecting the location of PCO booths:

— Commercial Housing Societies
— Resettlement Colonies
— Government Colonies
— Family Quarters of Defence Personnel
— Students hostels
— Bus Stands
— Tourist Centres
— Airports
— Pilgrim Centres
— Railway Stations
— Charitable Institutions
— Hospitals
— Educational Institutions, Public Libraries etc.

4. A minimum guaranteed revenue per PCO per month to the Department in the case of Non-rural (Urban) STD PCOs is fixed as R. 1600.

5. The amount of security deposit will be Rs. 5000 or an amount equal to the average monthly revenue whichever is higher. The average monthly revenue will be calculated on the basis of previous six months revenue.

6. Fortnightly billing cycle will be followed for recovery of STD PCO charges. If the charges are heavy, weekly billing may be resorted to by local telecom authority.

Receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

Sd/-

(K. V. KRISHNAMURTHY)

Asstt. Director General (PHB)

Lowering the Price of Switching Exchange

1865. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecom have reduced the maximum permissible price of switching exchanges to Rs. 4600 per line;

(b) if so, what is the manner in which lower costs of each line will be helpful to the consumer or phone subscriber; and

(c) what are the details of the benefits which are being passed on to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Special Pay to Assistant Engineers of Telecom

1866. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total sanctioned strength of Assistant Engineers of Telecom Circle of Uttar Pradesh as on date;